

US Army Corps of Engineers.

Vicksburg District 4155 Clay Street Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435 www.mvk.usace.army.mil



Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.: ASJ-MVK-2004-494

Ms. A. Susan Jarvis **EVALUATOR:**

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May 3, 2007 DATE:

EXPIRATION DATE: May 24, 2007

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services are considering an application for a Department of the Army permit and State water quality certification for the work described herein. A water quality certification is required in accordance with statutory authority contained in the LRS 30:2074 A(3) and provisions of the Clean Water Act. Comments should be forwarded to the Vicksburg District, Attention: CEMVK-OD-F, at the above address, and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services, Post Office Box 4313, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has a copy of the application on file in their office in Baton Rouge and may be inspected at any time between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Copies may be obtained from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality upon payment of cost of printing. Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality will make a final decision on the water quality certification pertaining to this application within 30 days after expiration of this notice.

Law Requiring a Permit: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), which applies to discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

Name of Applicant: Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development

Post Office Box 94245 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Name of Agent: Mr. Jeff Robinson, P.E. Louisiana TIMED Managers, Incorporated Suite 200 6300 Corporate Boulevard Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809 Location of Work: Sections 5, 6, 8, and 17 of T6N-R1W; sections 30 and 31 of T7N-R1W; sections 2, 11, 12, 13, 24, and 25 of T7N-R2W; sections 4, 9, 10, 15, 16, 22, 26, 27, 34, and 35 of T8N-R2W; sections 4, 9, 16, 21, 28, and 33 of T9N-R2W; sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 16, 17, 20, 21, 28, 29, 32, and 33 of T10N-R2W; sections 31 and 32 of T11N-R2W; sections 2, 3, 10, and 11 of T11N-R3W; sections 3, 10, 11, 14, 15, 22, 26, 27, 34, and 35 of T12N-R3W; sections 5, 8, 9, 16, 21, 22, 27, and 34 of T13N-R3W; and sections 7, 18, 19, 20, 29, 30, and 32 of T14N-R3W, latitude 31°53″50″ longitude 92°36′20″, within the Little, Lower Red-Lake Iatt, and Dugdemona drainage basins, Grant, Winn, and Jackson Parishes, Louisiana.

Description of Work: (See enclosed map and drawings.)

The following descriptions of the proposed project and associated impacts are based upon information provided by the applicant.

The applicant is applying for a Department of the Army permit to mechanically clear and fill wetlands and other waters of the United States associated with the construction and maintenance of the widening and overlay of U.S. Highway 167. A permit was previously issued to the applicant in the proposed project area. During construction, it was determined to change the alignment of the Louisiana Highway 1236 to Jonesboro segment. The project segment begins approximately 0.5 mile south of the U.S. Highway 167 intersection with Louisiana Highway 1236 in Dodson and extends in a northerly direction for a distance of approximately 11.9 miles, ending at the Jonesboro Bypass. A five-lane Portland cement concrete urban roadway would be constructed for approximately 1.1 miles through Dodson. For the remainder of the project segment the existing U.S. Highway 167 roadway would remain in place for southbound traffic and two new lanes of asphaltic concrete pavement roadway would be constructed east of the existing roadway, along the same alignment, for northbound traffic.

This segment of the project has been modified to improve safety and facilitate plant operations for Weyerhaeuser Lumber and would include a bypass at the plant site. A four-lane rural section roadway would be constructed on a new alignment for two miles to the east of the existing U.S. Highway 167. The bypass would intersect U.S. Highway 167 at locations to the north and south of the plant. The existing U.S. Highway 167 would remain in service for plant operations. Construction of the bypass and creation of a dedicated frontage road for plant operations would eliminate the need for logging trucks to wait in line on the shoulders of the new four-lane U.S. Highway 167, thus improving safety for motorists.

Roadbed dimensions for the rural four-lane roadway would have an average top width of 40 feet and an average bottom width of 135 feet with an average total right-of-way of 265 feet. The

average width of the roadway median would vary from 60 to 113 feet. The roadway travel lanes would be 12-feet-wide. The cubic feet of excavation and fill quantities would remain the same as previously permitted.

The proposed road site includes 0.62 acre of a wetland drain of which 0.10 acre would be cleared and 0.50 acre would be filled. There was a decrease in the amount of other waters of the United States for this site decreasing from 0.29 acre to 0.13 acre of an ephemeral stream. Approximately 598 feet of the stream extends eastward into the right-of-way of the project. Approximately 0.03 acre would be cleared while 0.10 acre would be filled and a culvert placed.

The placement of dredged and/or fill material in waters of the United States associated with the mechanized land clearing requires a Department of the Army Permit.

Upon reviewing this notice, you should write to this office to provide your opinion of the impacts this work will have on the natural and human environment and address any mitigation you believe is necessary to offset these impacts. Other comments are welcome, but the above information will further our review of the applicant's plan as proposed. Comments of a general nature are not as helpful as those specific to the impacts of the subject project.

State Water Quality Permit: The State Pollution Control Agency must certify that the described work will comply with the State's water quality standards and effluent limitations before a Corps permit is issued.

Cultural Resources: An initial review indicates that the proposed project would not affect any of the sites in Grant, Winn, and Jackson Parishes listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Copies of this notice have been sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer, Federally Recognized Tribes, and other interested parties for comment on potential effects to cultural resources that could result from this activity.

Endangered Species: Our initial finding is that the proposed work would not affect any endangered species or their critical habitat. This proposal is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and any comments regarding endangered species or their critical habitat will be addressed in our evaluation of the described work.

Flood Plain: In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Flood Plain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a flood plain development permit is required. Flood plain administrators should review the proposed development described in this public notice and apprise this office of any flood plain development permit requirements.

Evaluation Factors: The decision whether or not to issue a permit will be based upon an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits that may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its expected adverse effects. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood damage prevention, land use classification, navigation, recreation, water supply, water quality, energy needs, safety, food requirements and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the proposed activity will include application of the quidelines published by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

Public Involvement: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. These comments will be used to evaluate the impacts of this project. All comments will be considered and used to help determine whether to issue the permit, deny the permit, or issue the permit with conditions, and to help us determine the amount and type of mitigation necessary. This information will be used in our Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing.

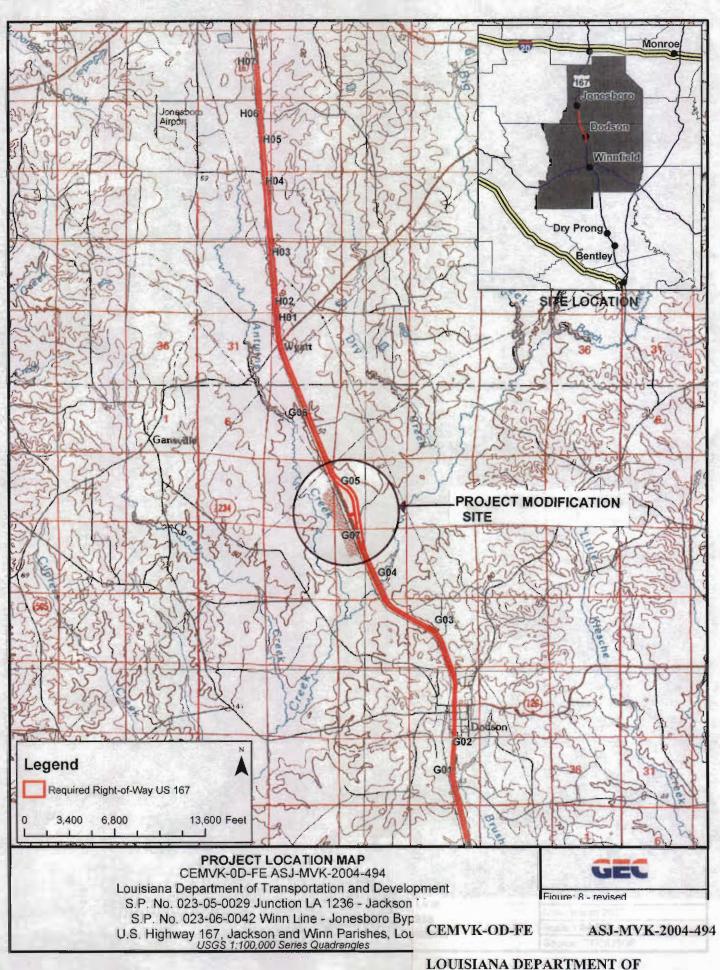
Opportunity for a Public Hearing: Any person may make a written request for a public hearing to consider this permit application. This request must be submitted by the public notice expiration date and must clearly state why a hearing is necessary. Failure of any agency or individual to comment on this notice will be interpreted to mean that there is no objection to the proposed work. Please bring this announcement to the attention of anyone you know who might be interested in this matter.

Notification of Final Permit Actions: Each month, the final permit actions from the preceding month are published on the Vicksburg District Regulatory web page. To access this information, you may follow the link from the Regulatory web page, http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/main.asp, or go directly to the Final Permit Actions web page at http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/PubNotice/MonthlyNotice/pnmain.asp.

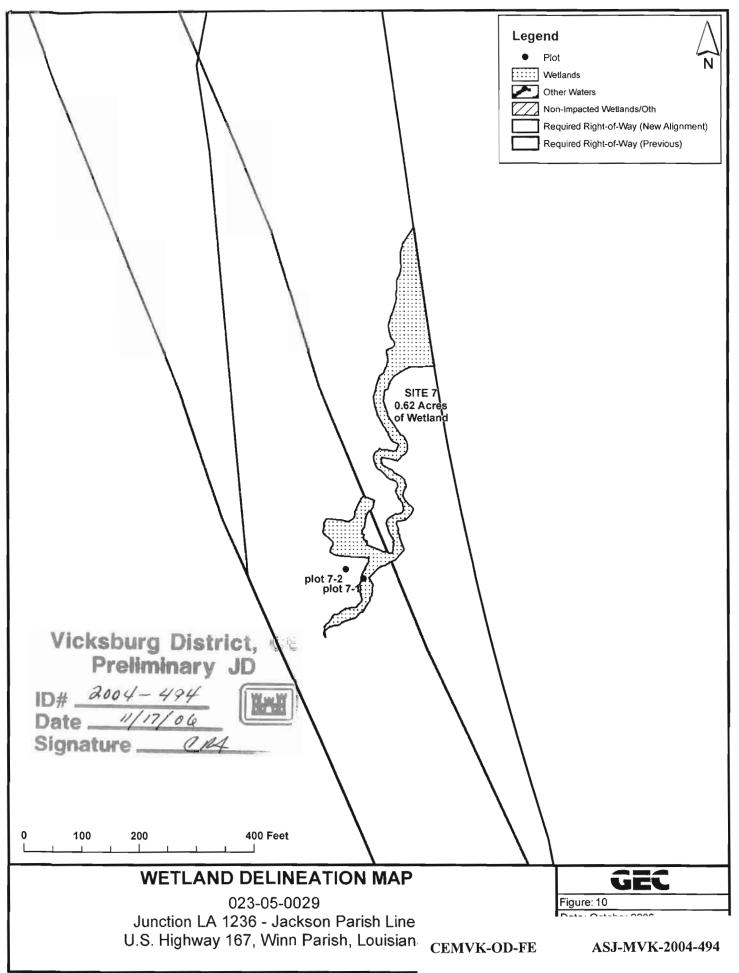
Anne S. Woerner Acting Section Chief

Evaluation Section Chie Regulatory Branch

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LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT



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